

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The First Sunday in Lent
21 February 2010
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church as we begin our Lenten Journey. We welcome our guest preacher Dr. Barbara Lundblad, Joe R. Engle Professor of Preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Dr. Lundblad has served as a parish pastor, a campus pastor and a teacher of homiletics for many years. We invite you to a brief Second Hour held in the Lounge after Worship to explore with Dr. Lundblad the potentiality of living a lively Lent.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Psalm-Prelude I (from Set two)

*Terence J. Flanagan, organ
Herbert Howells*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Hymn printed following Order of Worship

OPENING PRAYER

O God, amid the perplexities and doubts
that are a part of our life,
open a plain path wherein we may walk
with assurance and faith,
and despite the loneliness that
creeps in upon us,
keep us strong in courage
and loyal to
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are a people
who search
for happiness
O God of Blessing,
but you visit us
with the stimulus
of a new challenge.

We are a people
who long
for certainty
O God of Assurance,
but you prompt us
with new questions
which keep us searching.

We are a people
who are moving
in ceaseless activity
O God of Creation,
but you draw us
to the place of stillness
where we may sense your presence.

Forgive us
on this day of praise
and gratitude
for confusing our desires
with your will
for our lives,
for we would walk again
in the path
which Christ has shown us
even as we pray together...

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

‡Congregational Response

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind but now I see.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Kim Rogers

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (*TAMWORTH*)

Tune from Harmonia Sacra, Arranged by Alice Parker

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land:
I am weak, but thou art mighty, Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing streams do flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through:
Strong Deliverer, Be thou still my Strength and Shield.

Feed me with the heavenly manna in the barren wilderness;
Be my sword and shield and banner, Be my robe of righteousness;
Fight and conquer All my foes by sovereign grace.

When I tread the verge of Jordan Let my anxious fears subside;
Foe to death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises I will ever sing to thee.

SECOND LESSON

Carolyn Paulus

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you', and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

*‡HYMN

In Solitude

New Century (black) Hymnal 521

As the hymn begins, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first graders will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (Narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group. It is not necessary for parents to accompany their children because there are Hall Helpers to guide anyone who needs help.

SERMON

Not Really a Lonesome Valley

Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God
who is working in our world,
who has created and is creating,
who has come in the true man Jesus,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and in others by his Spirit.

We trust Him.

He calls us to be his church,
to celebrate his presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Gloria

New Century (black) Hymnal 754

Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

O Love How Deep

Eric Thiman

Text is found at Pilgrim Hymnal #150, stanzas 1, 3-5, and this final stanza:

To him whose boundless love has won
Salvation for us through his son,
To God the Father, glory be
Both now and through eternity. Amen

***Doxology**

New Century (black) Hymnal 776
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all
creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God,
Triune, whom we adore. Amen. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Be Now My Vision *New Century (black) Hymnal 451*

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: Every life converges to some center
Expressed or still;
Exists in every human nature
A goal.

People: Life is indeed insipid
for those who have
no great goal in hand.

Leader: I don't claim that
I have already arrived
or that I am as yet
fully mature...
but I keep on struggling.

People: I push on then
with all of my energy,
towards the prize
of God's invitation
to the high road
in Christ Jesus.

(Emily Dickinson, Horace Bushnell, Paul of Tarsus)

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

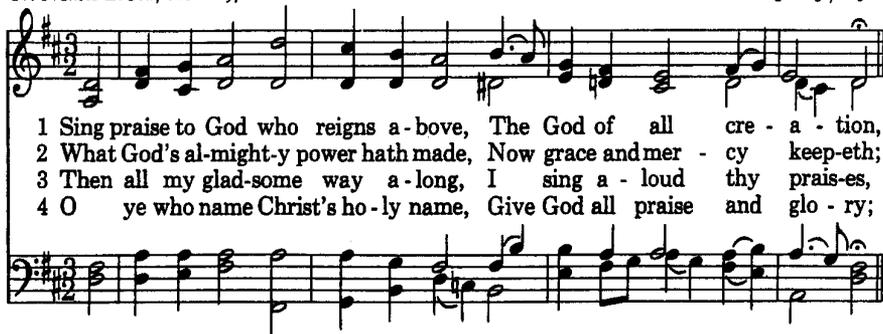
The Sovereign's Fanfare

Arthur Bliss

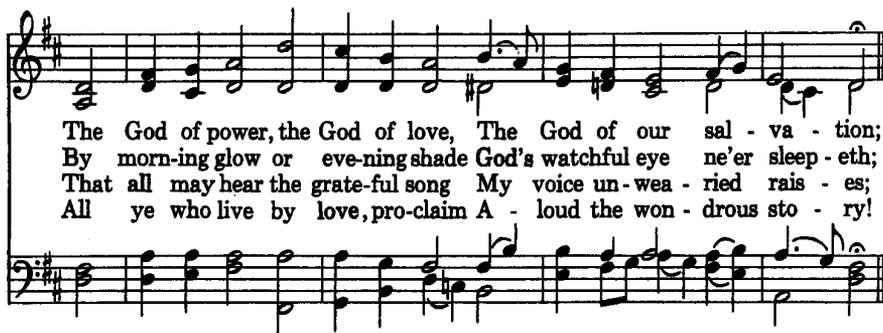
Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Johann J Schütz, 1640-1690
Tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-1897

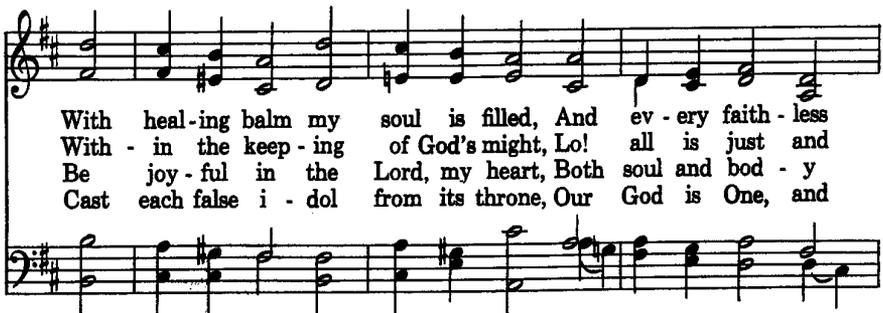
MIT FREUDEN ZART 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.
Bohemian Brethren's "Kirchengesänge," 1566



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre - a - tion,
2 What God's al-might-y power hath made, Now grace and mer - cy keep-eth;
3 Then all my glad-some way a - long, I sing a - loud thy prais-es,
4 O ye who name Christ's ho - ly name, Give God all praise and glo - ry;



The God of power, the God of love, The God of our sal - va - tion;
By morn-ing glow or eve-ningshade God's watchful eye ne'er sleep - eth;
That all may hear the grate-ful song My voice un-wea - ried rais - es;
All ye who live by love, pro-claim A - loud the won - drous sto - ry!



With heal-ing balm my soul is filled, And ev - ery faith - less
With - in the keep - ing of God's might, Lo! all is just and
Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and bod - y
Cast each false i - dol from its throne, Our God is One, and



mur-mur still'd: To God all praise and glo - ry.
all is right: To God all praise and glo - ry.
bear your part: To God all praise and glo - ry.
God a - lone: To God all praise and glo - ry. A - men.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in loving memory of David Hackler, brother of Nancy McConnell, and Madeline McConnell, mother of Chuck McConnell.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in the Preschool area. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions.

The 10:00 am Service is broadcast live each week on WGCH 1490 AM Radio. In addition, the service is available through the church's website, www.fccog.org. A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today Church School classes resume and most of our children will learn about Jesus Healing a Paralyzed Man. Also, we have begun our family Lenten Projects. See your child's teachers or pick up the materials in the center of the Undercroft. The projects are designed to help families live through a meaningful and spiritual Lenten season.

Bible Study

Because of today's Second Hour, there will be no Bible Study after church. However, everyone is encouraged to come on Tuesday evening for what have to be the highlight chapters of Romans, 7 and 8. Here Paul reveals his own struggles with the Christian life and gives insight into life in the Spirit. Please join us then at 7:30 Tuesday evening.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available in Room 203 after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

Cherub Choir rehearses today in Room 104 from 11:15 to 11:45 am.

Youth Choir rehearses today in the Choir Room from 11:20 am to 12:20 pm.

JPF / Junior Pilgrim Fellowship, 6-8 grades, meets in Room 103 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

SPF / Senior Pilgrim Fellowship, 9-12 grades, meets in Room 103 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

THIS WEEK

The Rummage Room

WISH LIST: a sewing machine, jewelry, St. Patrick's Day clothing and items, a Japanese Kimono, a double stroller, spring clothing and Easter items.

Now through Wednesday, February 24, everything is 50% off. The Bag Sales begin on Thursday, February 25 with everything in the shop at \$12 a bag, Friday at \$8 a bag and Saturday, at \$1. The shop will reopen on Monday, March 1 with all "new" spring merchandise.

Tai Chi

February classes have resumed on Wednesdays at 8:00 am and Thursdays at 9:00 am. The fee is \$28.00. Our newest members are greatly enjoying the classes. We urge others to join this month. Each class is different and catching up is easy to do. For any questions, please call Prill Meyer at 203-637-4214.

The **Children's Choir** rehearses on Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in the Choir Room followed by pizza in Room 303.

Join our **Hats Off!** book discussion group Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Lounge. We are reading *Olive Kitteridge*, a 2009 Pulitzer Prize winner by Elizabeth Strout. The discussion group meets until 11:30 am.

Heart-Healthy Salad Dressings Cooking Demonstration

Thursday, February 25 - 12:00 Noon to 1:15 pm (inclement weather date is February 26)

Watch and learn as Gavin Pritchard, Registered Dietician from Greenwich Hospital's Center for Healthy Living demonstrates how to make several heart-healthy salad dressings. A light lunch of salad will be served so attendees can taste all the delectable dressings. Participants are sure to leave with satisfied appetites and recipes to try at home.

Please RSVP to Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at extension 21.

The **Palmer Handbells** rehearse on Thursday evening from 6:15 to 7:15 pm in the Meetinghouse.

Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Choir Room.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Wellness Lecture on Acupuncture

On Sunday, March 7, learn the many uses of acupuncture from our guest speaker, Dr. Janet Freedman. Please gather in the Lounge as Coffee Hour winds down.

Duke University Chorale

On Wednesday evening, March 10, at 8:00 pm, we will present the Duke University Chorale in concert. Join us for what promises to be an entertaining and uplifting musical experience.

International Mission Team – Supplies needed by March 7.

The First Church International Mission Team is going to Guatemala in March. We will build a home with a family and work in the library, schools and medical facilities of our sponsor Common Hope. We welcome the donation of the following supplies to bring to the needy families that Common Hope serves. Please bring them to the Church Office by March 7 at the latest:

Library: *Spanish language!* NON-fiction books for all ages (preschool through high school, but especially for teenagers), *Spanish language!* fiction for teenagers, board games, jigsaw puzzles (100 pieces or less). Please donate items that you or your children have really enjoyed and that you think that Guatemalan students might enjoy.

School Supplies: black, blue and red pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, glue bottles, 12-pack colored pencils, children's scissors, rulers, watercolor paints, scientific calculators, compasses and protractors.

Clinics: tooth paste and toothbrushes

Examples of the supplies will be on display in Coffee Hour and in the Church Office. We only have a limited time to gather these books, games and supplies, so your active participation will be greatly appreciated. Let us send the team off with laden suitcases as we extend our hand in friendship to our neighbors in need. Contact Wendy Reynolds (Wendyreyn@aol.com) about supplies, Ed Healy (world123y@yahoo.com) about books, games, and puzzles and Kathy Fraser (kathyfraser1@gmail.com) about the team and trip. There is room for more travelers.

March CPR Training including Defibrillator Use

Saturday, March 20, 9:00 am -12:00 Noon; Saturday, March 20, 1:00 - 4:00 pm; OR Saturday, March 27, 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon. This class is appropriate for first-time participants as well as those in need of recertification. Because of the generosity of GEMS and the church covering the balance of the reduced fees, there is no cost to the participants. The

Wellness Committee thanks you for the gift of your time and willingness to help others. To register or get more information, speak to Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at extension 21.

Sunday Afternoons Live is a series of chamber music, vocal, piano and jazz concerts held in the Auditorium during the months of January and February. The audience is seated at candlelit tables, creating a comfortable atmosphere. Hot chocolate, tea and cookies are served from 3:30 pm and the performances begin at 4:00, concluding between 5:15 and 5:30 pm. There is no admission charge, but a donation of \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per family is requested from those who are able to contribute.

2010 Schedule

TODAY

February 28

Donald Vega Jazz Trio

**Melissa Westgate, cello, Amaryllis Glass,
piano**

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

www.fccog.org

Ministers: Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music/Senior Organist: Dr. John Stansell

Associate Organist/Director: Terence J. Flanagan

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove